HIS MAJESTIES Most Gracious LETTER TO THE PARLIAMENT OF SCOTLAND.

Together with the

Parliaments Dutiful Answer TO HIS MAJESTIES LETTER.

Published by His Majesties Command.

DUBLIN,
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25: — His discourse of Lent 1682.

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His MAJESTIES

Most Gracious Letter, &c.

JAMES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE great Teſtimonies We had of your Loyalty and affection to our Royal Perſon and Government at your laſt Seſſion, (in which you not only made an humble Offer of your Duty in ample manner, and ſhewed your Abhorrence of the Rebellion then raiſed againſt Us, and your Readineſs on that, and all other Occaſions to ſtand by Us with your Lives and Fortunes, but (wiſely conſidering how much the Forces which former Parliaments had given Us ſupplies to maintain, ſupported by your Aſſiſtance, and bleſſed by God, were inſtrumental in ending that Unnatural Rebellion) you gave Us the occaſion by Augmenting your Supplies to add to Our Forces, and conſequently to your own Security) for all which, as We then returned you Our moſt Hearty and Royal thanks, and conſidered you the Examples to Our other Subjects of Loyalty, Duty and Affection to Us, (as you had been in Our former Difficulties)

ſo it ſtirred up in Us an Ardent Deſire of making ſuch Returns unto you, as might every way make you find the Advantage of your Faithfulneſs and Duty to Us.

It is for this End that We have again deſired to meet you in this Seſſion.

We have conſidered your Intereſt as much as Our Diſtance from you could bring into Our Proſpect, and thoſe things which We found proper for it, whether in Relation to Trade and Commerce, or Eaſing ſome things uneaſie to you amongſt your ſelves, We have fully inſtructed Our Commiſioner (with your Advice and Conſent) to conclude ſo, as may be moſt for the General Good of that Our Antient Kingdom.

We have made the Opening of a Free Trade with *England* Our particular Care, and are Proceeding in it with all Imaginable Application, and are Hopeful in a ſhort time to have Conſiderable Advances made in it. We have conſidered the Trouble that many are put to Daily by Proſecutions before our Judges, or the hazard that they lie under for their Acceſſion to the late Rebellions: And to ſhew the World (even Our greateſt Enemies themſelves) that Mercy is Our Inclination, and Severity what is by their Wickedneſs Extorted from Us, We have ſent down to be Paſt in your Preſence Our Full and Ample Indemnity for all Crimes Committed againſt our Royal Perſon or Authority. And whilſt VVe ſhew theſe Acts of Mercy to the Enemies to Our Perſon, Crown and Royal Dignity, VVe cannot be Unmindful of Others Our Innocent *Subjects*, thoſe of the Roman Catholick Religion, who have with the hazards of their Lives and Fortunes been always Aſſiſtant to the Crown in the worſt of Rebellions and Uſurpations, though they lay under Diſcouragements hardly to be Named. Them VVe do heartily Recommend to your Care, to the end that as they have given Good Experience of their True Loyalty and Peaceable Behaviour, ſo by your Aſſiſtance they may have the Protection of Our *Laws*, and that *Security* under Our Government, which others of Our *Subjects* have, not ſuffering them

to

to lie under Obligations which their Religion cannot admit of. By doing whereof you will give a Demonſtration of the Duty and Affection you have for Us, and do Us moſt acceptable Service.

This Love We expect you will ſhew to your Brethren, as you ſee We are an Indulgent Father to You all.

For theſe, and ſuch other Matters as We conceive for Our Service, and the Univerſal Good of the Nation, We have ſent Our Right Truſty and Right Entirely Beloved Couſin and Counſellor, *Alexander* Earl of *Morray*, Secretary of State for that Our Ancient Kingdom, Our Commiſſioner to you, believing that none will be more acceptable than one ſo immediately Imployed and Truſted about Our Perſon, of whoſe long and faithful Services We have full Experience in every one of the ſeveral Imployments he has been in, and of whoſe Loyalty and Affection to Our Perſon and *S*ervice We are fully convinced. To him we deſire you to give entire Credit, as One fully inſtructed and Truſted by Us, from whoſe Experience and Faithful Endeavours, with your Loyalty; Love and Duty to Us, We have good Reaſon to expect a happy Concluſion to this Seſſion: And you may aſſure your ſelves in general, and every one of you in particular that VVe ſhall have both the general Concern of the Nation and yours into our moſt particular Regard, which VVe ſhall expreſs by Our Royal Favour upon all ſuitable Occaſions. *S*o not only expecting your Compliance with Us, but that by the Manner of it you will ſhew the VVorld your Readineſs to meet Our Inclinations, VVe bid you moſt heartily Farewel.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehal*, the 12th. Day of *April*, 1686. And of Our Reign the *S*econd Year.

By His Majeſties Command,

MELFORT.

The Parliament of Scotlands Dutiful Answer to His Majesties Letter.

May it please Your Sacred Majesty,

WE do return Your Majesty our most humble and hearty Thanks, for the frequent Marks of Your Royal Favour expresst to this Your ancient Kingdom upon all occasions; and particularly, in Your Majesties Gracious Letter dated the 12th of April last: And Your Majesty may with full assurance expect, that your Gracious Acceptance of those Services we did You in the last Session of this Parliament, will encourage us to continue our Zeal and Firmness in this, for Your Majesties Service, and the Royal Interest, upon which, under God, we acknowledge our Happiness and Preservation do intirely depend.

Your Majesties Care of the Trade of this Kingdom (which is, at present, exceedingly decayed) and particularly, your Royal Endeavors to procure us a free Trade with your Kingdom of England, will very much enable us to make these Supplies effectual, which we have so heartily and willingly undertaken for the Security of the Crown, and Safety of the Kingdom; nor shall the Advantages that can arise thereby, be more acceptable to us upon any other account, than so far, as they may be a Testimony of Your Majesties Kindness, and conduce to those great Ends.

Your Majesties Clemency, testified in the Offer of an Indemnity to these desperate Rebels, who could have expected Pardon from no Monarch on Earth but Your Sacred Majesty; and the greatest Aggravation of whose Crimes lies in opposing such Gracious and Merciful Princes, will (we hope) not only convince your other Subjects how happy they are under your Government, but reclaim them from bearing any further Enmity to it; and to let them see how extravagant, as well as undutiful, their Endeavors will be, in opposing Your Majesty, and Your Royal Successors, We do again most sincerely

cerely and heartily offer You our Lives and Fortunes for ſupreſſing all ſuch, as ſhall, upon any account or pretence whatſoever, attempt, either by private Contrivances, or open Rebellions, to diſquiet Your Glorious Reign.

As to that part of Your Majeſties Letter relating to Your Subjects of the Roman Catholick Religion, *We ſhall, in obedience to Your Majeſties Commands, and with Tenderneſs to their Perſons, take the ſame into our ſerious and dutiful Conſideration, and go as great lengths therein, as our Conſcience will allow, not doubting that Your Majeſty will be careful to ſecure the Proteſtant Religion eſtabliſhed by Law.*

Your Majeſties Commiſſioner has, to our very great Satisfaction, ſignified to us, That he is fully inſtructed by Your Majeſty, to promote every thing which may tend to the Improvement of the Wealth and Proſperity of this Your ancient Kingdom; And we hope, that by this wiſe Care and Conduct, this Seſſion of Parliament may be brought to a happy Concluſion; And to Him, ſeeing Your Majeſty has well judged that none could be more acceptable, We ſhall give that intire Credit and Concurrence, and pay that Reſpect which is due to the eminent Character which Your Majeſty has been pleaſed to give Him; And to that conſtant Loyalty and Fidelity with which He has acquitted Himſelf in all the former Truſts and Employments which He has born under Your Majeſties Royal Brother, and Your Self; Hoping that We ſhall give Him juſt Reaſon to report at his Return to Your Majeſty, with how much Zeal, Duty and Affection, We endeavor to deſerve the being Conſidered, by Your Majeſty, as

(May it pleaſe Your Sacred Majeſty)

Your Majeſties moſt Humble, moſt Faithful,
And moſt Obedient Subjects and Servants.

Edinburgh,
May 6.
1686.

PERTH CANC.

I. P. D. Parl.